

Vital Records Research at the Library of Michigan

23 and 24 October 2007

Charles Hagler

Vital Records History

- United States
 - Marriage and Divorce
 - » Civil Contract
 - » Property
 - » Probate and Estate

Vital Records History

■ United States

– Births and Deaths

- » Public Health Concerns
- » Health Statistic
- » Later Half of the Nineteenth Century
- » Only 14 States and 5 Cities Had Registration Before 1880
- » Mortality Schedules

Vital Records History

■ Michigan

– Marriages and Divorce

» Divorce

- Supreme Court
- Court of Record
- Circuit Court/Court of the Chancery
- State of Michigan After 1896

History of Vital Records

■ Michigan

–Marriages and Divorce

»Marriage

- Clerk of the Court and the Supreme Court
- County Clerk's Office
- State of Michigan After 5 April 1867
- Probate Judge and Secretary of State

County Clerk

- Michigan County Clerks Directory
 - http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17449_18635_20736---,00.html
 - <http://www.michigan.gov/familyhistory>



History, Arts and Libraries

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of Michigan Website[Michigan.gov Home](#)[HAL Home](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact HAL](#) | [FAQ](#) | [HAL Jobs](#) | [HAL Online Services](#)

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Michigan County Clerks Directory

Introduction to the Michigan County Clerks Directory

The Archives of Michigan was pleased to make the Michigan County Clerks Genealogy Directory available on the World Wide Web in 1996. It continues to be revised, as new information becomes available. **Please direct updated information to Bob Garrett (E-mail: garrett1@michigan.gov)**

> [More](#)

Using the Michigan County Clerks Directory

The Michigan County Clerk's Directory is organized alphabetically by county. The following information is provided

> [More](#)

County Clerk Information for Genealogists

- [Alcona County](#)
- [Alger County](#)
- [Allegan County](#)
- [Alpena County](#)
- [Antrim County](#)
- [Arenac County](#)
- [Baraga County](#)
- [Barry County](#)
- [Bay County](#)

[Departments/Agencies](#)[Online Services](#)[Surveys](#)[RSS Feeds](#)

HAL QUICK LINKS

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Genealogy Quick Links

- [Michigan Naturalization Records](#)
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- [Michigan County Clerks Directory](#)
- [1870 Michigan Census Index and Images](#)

More Special Links

- [Jingle Ball](#)
- [Maritime Tours](#)
- [Support our Troops](#)

Services & Collections

> Genealogy

- [ANSWER Library Catalog](#)
- [Conducting Your Genealogy Research](#)
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- [Michigan Cemetery Sources](#)

Michigan County Clerks Directory

- [Michigan Genealogist Newsletter](#)
- [Michigan Naturalization Record Indexes](#)
- [Michigan Newspapers](#)

- > [Government Documents](#)
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- > [Historic Preservation](#)
- > [Law Library](#)
- > [Research Services](#)
- > [Service for the Blind & Physically Handicapped](#)

Michigan Vital Records on Microform:

- Births
- Deaths
- Marriages
- Divorces

Michigan Vital Records on Microform:

■ Births

– Index to births, 1867-1915

» Where are the birth records?

■ Illegitimate births

■ Adoptions

Michigan Vital Records on Microform:

■ Deaths

- Index to deaths, 1867-1914
- Return of deaths recorded in the county of ..., 1867-1897
- Death Certificates 1897-1920

Michigan Vital Records on Microform:

■ Marriages

- Index to marriages, 1867-1921 and 1950-1969
- Return of marriages recorded in the county of ... , 1867-1925

Michigan Vital Records on Microform:

■ Divorces

- Divorce index, 1897-1969
- Summary of returns relative to divorces : county of ..., 1897-1922
 - » Summary only: who, what, when, where, and why
 - » Case records are with the county

Middaugh L. C.	18 716
Musch J. Amel	18 736
Millard — Kenneth M.	18 791
Molby — Hiram	18 804
Watson Joseph	18 834

<u>Vol. 17</u>	Midland	1-203
	Missaukee	203-290
	Monroe	291-719
	Montcalm	720
<u>Vol. 18</u>	Montmorency	1-12
	Muskegon	13-473
	Newaygo	474-720
	Oakland	721-1341
<u>Vol. 19</u>	Oceana	1-196
	Ogemaw	197-274
	Ontonagon	275-328
	Oscoda	329-540

County Oakland
 Township Grand
 Village _____
 City _____

MICHIGAN.
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE—DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
 CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH.

REGISTERED NO. _____

Full name Harmon Melby Date of death June 16 1899

Place of death if in city X West; No. X Sex Male Color White
 Single, married, widowed or divorced married
 If married, age at (first) marriage 26 years. Age 75 YEARS 2 MONTHS 16 DAYS

Parent of four children, of whom four are living. Birthplace (State or country) New York
 Occupation Farming

Name of father William Melby Birthplace of father (State or country) N.Y.
 Maiden name of mother Suey Clark Birthplace of mother (State or country) N.Y.

Date of burial or exposure June 18 1899
 Place of burial or exposure St. Bethel Grand Mich.

Signature of undertaker J. D. M. Kinney Address of undertaker St. Bethel Mich.

Certificate of Reporter

The personal and family particulars herein given relative to deceased are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Witness my

hand this 16th day of June 1899.

(Signed) Edna Melby
 (Address) East Thetford

Medical Certificate of Cause of Death.

I hereby certify that I attended deceased from June 1899 to June 10 1899
 that I last saw him alive on June 10 1899, that he died on June 16 1899
 about 9 o'clock, AM, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the CAUSE OF DEATH was as hereunder written:

DEATH CAUSING DEATH Chronic inflammation bowels.
 Immediate cause of death Bleeding from
 Contributory causes or complications, if any 83
 Post-mortem _____

DURATION OF EACH CAUSE.

*In case of a Violent Death, state (1) mode of injury and whether accidental, suicidal or homicidal; (2) what was the nature of the injury and the immediate cause of death; (3) contributory causes or conditions, e. g., septicemia. Also whether operation was performed, etc.

Witness my hand this 17 day of June 1899
 Signature of physician Chas. Robertson M. D.
 (Address) Grand Mich.

Other Resources

- Census Records
- County Records
- Local Records
- Newspapers
- Online Resources
- Probate

Census Records

- Mortality

- 1850-1880
- One Year Before Census Day
- Number of Children Question

- Birth

- Age Question

- Marriage

- 1900-1930

County Records

- County Clerk's Office
- Many of earlier records microfilm by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormons)
- Some counties have online indexes to these records



Search with

 go☐ WWW ☒ Our Site[Macomb County Home](#) | [Board of Commissioners Home](#) | [County Clerk Home](#) | [Circuit Court Home](#) | [County Sites](#)

Business

Community

Government

Macomb County Clerk's Office

Death Records Search

Enter any combination of information to limit your search.

Full or partial **last name**. Full or partial **first name**.

Range of death date.

(HINT: Leave dates blank to widen your search.)

Month Year - Month Year Arrange by:

SEARCH

Clear Data

[Help](#)[County Clerk Home Page](#)[Clerk's Office FAQs](#)[Deeds Office FAQs](#)[Feedback](#)[Directions](#)[County Clerk Quick Links](#)

Call Clerk's Office



Mon - Fri

8 am - 5 pm



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Business

Community

Government

Macomb County Clerk's Office

Start a [new search](#).

5 items found, displaying all items.

Last name	First	County of Death	Date of Death
BARNOWSKE	ARTHUR	MACOMB	November 3, 1968
BARNOWSKE	FLORENCE	MACOMB	March 30, 1984
BARNOWSKE	HENRY	MACOMB	January 10, 1978
BARNOWSKE	HENRY	MACOMB	April 8, 1982
BARNOWSKE	MARGARET	WAYNE	February 6, 1972

Index last updated on Aug 24, 2006 12:13:47 PM EST.

If a death occurred in a county other than Macomb, contact the Clerk's Office in the county of death. Deaths before 1960 may not be listed. For more information about a Macomb County death, please call the Macomb County Clerk's office at (586) 469-5120 or click [here](#) (Monday - Friday; 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST) to receive an immediate telephone call.

[County Clerk Home Page](#)[Clerk's Office FAQs](#)[Deeds Office FAQs](#)[Feedback](#)[Directions](#)[County Clerk Quick Links](#)

Call Clerk's Office



Mon - Fri

8 am - 5 pm

Indexes to Other States' Records in the Library

- Alabama
- Connecticut
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Massachusetts
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Wisconsin
- Others

Alabama

- Death Index, 1908-1959
- Divorce Index, 1950-1959
- Marriage Index, 1936-1969

Connecticut Births, Marriages, and Deaths

- Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records
 - Index from pre-1850 records of most Connecticut Towns

Georgia Marriages, Divorces and Deaths

- Index to Marriages, 1964-1991
- Index to Divorces, 1965-1994
- Index to Deaths, 1964-1990

Illinois Marriages

- Index to pre-1901 marriage records.

Indiana County Vital Records

- Works Progress Administration
- Indiana State Library
- Indexes For Sixty-seven Counties
- Missing Twenty-five Counties

Kentucky Deaths

- Death Cert. Index , 1911-1986.

Louisiana

- Index to Death, 1900-1929.

Massachusetts

- Index to Birth, 1841-1895
- Index to Marriages, 1841-1895
- Index to Deaths, 1841-1895

North Carolina

- Index to marriage bonds, 1741-1868
 - 170,000 marriage bonds
 - Statement of intent to marry

Wisconsin Births, Deaths, Marriages and Divorces

- Births, pre-1907.
- Deaths, pre-1907, 1959-1991.
- Marriages, pre-1907, 1973-1992.
- Divorces, 1965-1984.

Others

- A few Iowa and Ohio county records.
- Index to Boston, Massachusetts births, marriages and deaths, 1630-1849.
- Abstracts from various states archives.
- Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands marriage records.
- Abstracts from Church records.
- Abstracts from county or town records.

Canadian Records

- Ontario
- New Brunswick
- Newfoundland
- Quebec

Ontario Vital Records

■ Index and Registration

- Births 1869-1908
- Marriages 1873-1923
- Deaths 1869-1933

New Brunswick

- Early marriage records of New Brunswick : Saint John city and county from the British Conquest to 1839
- New Brunswick vital statistics from newspapers

Newfoundland

- Births, deaths, marriages in Newfoundland newspapers, 1825-1890

Quebec

■ Parish Records

- Charbonneau
- Drouin
- Jette
- Loiselle
- Tanguay

Locating Vital Records on the Internet

- Michigan Web Sites
- Ancestry Library Edition
- Other Web Sites
- States With Web Sites

Michigan Web Sites

- State of Michigan
- County Clerks
- Genealogical and Historical Societies
- GenWeb

Michigan

- Central Adoption Registry
 - http://www.michigan.gov/fia/1,1607,7-124-5452_7116_7125-14882--,00.html
- Genealogical Death Indexing System
 - <http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/gendisx/search2.htm>
- Michigan Vital Records
 - <http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-4645---,00.html>
- Michigan Cemetery Sources
 - <http://michigancemeteries.libraryofmichigan.org/>



Department of
Community Health



Michigan.gov

An Official State of Michigan Web Site

Genealogical Death Indexing System ◀



Michigan Department of Community Health

**Please enter the decedent information that you wish to use in the search.
The Genealogical Death Indexing System will produce a list of possible
matches to the information that you enter.**

Decedent
Last
Name:

Decedent
First Name:

Father
Last
Name:

County of
Death:

Year of
Death
or Range
of Years:

 to

Sort By:

Search

Clear Form

Please note that the search will stop after 200 records have been retrieved. Therefore, while GENDIS gives you the capability to use as much or as little information as you wish to conduct a search, it is best to limit large searches. Please review the [searching tips](#) for



FRANKLIN, BENJAMIN

Date of death: 26-Oct-1882
Ledger Page: 82
Record Number: 1034
Place of death: Bertrand
County of Death: Berrien
Sex: Male
Race: WHITE
Marital Status: Married
Age: 78 years 3 months 10 days
Cause of Death: OLD AGE
Birthplace: VERMONT
Occupation: FARMER
Father's Name: Franklin, VIAL
Father's Residence: DECEASED
Mother's Name: FRANKLIN, LUCRETIA
Mother's Residence: DECEASED
Date of record: 11-May-1883

Names are in the form last name, first, middle. The notation *Not Recorded* or *NR* above indicates that the ledger page was left blank in that spot.

Genealogical and Historical Societies

- Records are usually abstracted from official sources such as the county clerk's office
- Some records are from the LDS microfilms of county records
- Cemetery readings are found on these sites
- Quality varies



Online Searchable Databases

Published by

Western Michigan Genealogical Society

Got Databases?!

Western Michigan Genealogical Society



Celebrates

5



Years Online

2 June 2006 - you can order and pay for Veterans records with PayPal**1 February 2006 - New - Now you can pay for Obituaries* with PayPal**

(* This applies to any records found in the "West Michigan Obituaries" database.)

Summary of WMGS Online Databases at 12 September 2006

Database	# of Records
About Search WMGS Members' Genealogy - Genealogy files made up from the 4 generation charts that have been submitted by WMGS Members over the 50 years WMGS has been collecting these. These files are slowly being added to as the existing charts are entered.	8,406
About Search WMGS Manuscripts - A listing of the surnames that appear in the Western Michigan Genealogical Society Manuscripts Collection. This collection has been accumulated over WMGS' 50 years and is housed at the Grand Rapids Public Library. Currently being worked on.	

Ancestry Library Edition

- Ancestry Library Edition (ALE) can only be viewed in a Michigan library, it is not available through remote access.

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help



Address http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/default.aspx

Go Links >>

Ancestry library edition

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Home

Search

Charts and Forms

Historical Records

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Find census, birth, marriage, death records and more.

[Search tips](#)☒ Exact matches only

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Spelling

Exact

Lived in

All Countries

Year range

 to

e.g. 1827 to 1903




Search

US CENSUS

[1930](#) [1890](#) [1850](#) [1810](#)[1920](#) [1880](#) [1840](#) [1800](#)

MORE COLLECTIONS

[U.S. Immigration Collection](#)[Birth, Marriage & Death Records \(SSDI\)](#)

-  [North Carolina Marriage Collection, 1741-2000](#)
-  [Texas Birth Index, 1903-1997](#)
-  [Ohio Deaths, 1958-2000](#)

Search Individual Birth, Marriage, & Death Collections:

- [Massachusetts Centinal Marriage Notices](#)
- [Massachusetts Death Index, 1970-2003](#)
- [Massachusetts Deaths, 1844: Vol. 8, Barnstable to Hampshire; Volume 9, Middlesex to Worcester](#)
- [Massachusetts Marriages to 1800](#)
- [Massachusetts Marriages, 1633-1850](#)
- [Massachusetts Name Changes, 1780-1892](#)
- [Massachusetts Town Birth Records](#)
- [Massachusetts Town Death Records](#)
- [Massachusetts Town Marriage Records](#)
- [Massachusetts: Middlesex County, Cambridge, Mt. Auburn Cemetery](#)
- [Mecklenburg County Virginia Birth Records, 1866-85](#)
- [Mecklenburg, Virginia Marriages, 1765-1810](#)
- [Merced County, California Deaths, 1852-1999](#)
- [Mercer County, Kentucky Marriage Records, 1800-1830 Vol. II-III](#)
- [Mercer County, Kentucky: Marriages \(1786-1800\) & Wills \(1786-1801\)](#)
- [Mexican Parish Records, 1751-1880](#)
- [Michigan Deaths, 1971-1996](#)
- [Michigan Marriages to 1850](#)
- [Michigan Marriages, 1851-75](#)
- [Middlesex, England: Parish and Probate Records](#)
- [Midlothian \(Edinburgh\), Scotland: Parish and Probate Records](#)

[- more...](#)

[Reference & Finding Aids](#)

- [Genealogical Library Master Index](#)
- [more...](#)

[Stories & Publications Biography & History](#)

- [AGBI](#)
- [Slave Narratives](#)
- [more...](#)

[Newspapers & Periodicals](#)

- [Virginia Genealogical Society Qtrly](#)
- [Railway Gazetteer Worldwide](#)
- [more...](#)

[Photos & Maps Photos & Maps](#)

- [Ancestry Map Center](#) NEW
- [U.S. School Yearbooks](#)
- [more...](#)

[Trees & Community](#)

- [Ancestry World Tree](#)
- [Message Boards](#)

[list all databases...](#)
[recent website additions...](#)

Other Web Sites

- USGenWeb Project
- National Center for Health Statistics
- New England Historic
Genealogical Society

USGenWeb Project

- <http://www.usgenweb.org/>
 - Links to all the state web sites which provide gateways to the counties.



Land of the Free ...Genealogy

The USGENWEB Project

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..

Keeping Internet Genealogy Free



Welcome
to The
USGenWeb
Project!
We are a
group of
volunteers working together to provide
free genealogy websites for
genealogical research in every county
and every state of the United States.
This Project is non-commercial and fully
committed to free genealogy access for

Counties of the Month
Newport County, RI
Hood River County, OR

[County Spotlight](#)[Project Archives](#)

Comments and
administrative-type
problems should be
emailed to the **National**

National Center for Health Statistics

- <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm>
- Where to obtain vital records from each state and some territory of the United States.

New England Historic Genealogical Society

- New England Ancestors
 - <http://www.newenglandancestors.org/>
- Part of the membership to the New England Historic Genealogical Society
- One of the databases the Library of Michigan has

Other States Web Sites

- Arizona
- California
- Delaware
- Illinois
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Ohio
- South Dakota

Illinois

- <http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/databases.html>
 - Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763–1900
An Ongoing Project of the Illinois State Archives & the Illinois State Genealogical Society
 - Illinois Statewide Death Index, Pre–1916
An Ongoing Project of the Illinois State Archives
 - Illinois Statewide Death Index (1916–1950)
An index created by the Illinois Department of Public Health

ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES



JESSE WHITE
SECRETARY OF STATE
AND STATE ARCHIVIST

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Online Databases



[Global Database Search](#)

♦ ♦ ♦ [Illinois State Archives Database Transcription Policy](#) ♦ ♦ ♦

Records in the Illinois State Archives

- [Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database](#)
- [Database of Illinois Servitude and Emancipation Records](#)

Databases of Illinois Veterans

- [Database of Illinois War of 1812 Veterans](#)
- [Database of Illinois Winnebago War Veterans](#)
- [Database of Illinois Black Hawk War Veterans](#)
- [Database of Illinois Mexican War Veterans](#)

Illinois Statewide Death Index, 1916-1950

Death certificates filed after 1947 are not currently available in the Illinois State Archives Reference Room. For deaths occurring after 1947, the death date will appear in **RED**.

Click below for information about how to obtain copies of death certificates in Illinois:

- [Copies of death certificates after 1915.](#)
- [Copies of death certificates before 1916.](#)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Sex/ Race	Age	Cert #	Death Date	County	City
123 records are displayed.								
The maximum number displayed is 500. If a MORE button appears below, click for additional reco								
HAGLER	ABRAHAM		M/W	UNK	0390311	1925-09-09	JACKSON	MAKANDA TWP
HAGLER	ADDIE		F/N	UNK	0016013	1921-04-08	PULASKI	ROAD DIST NO 3
HAGLER	ADDISON		M/N	UNK	0016016	1921-05-16	PULASKI	ROAD DIST NO 3
HAGLER	ALANZO		M/W	UNK	0014927	1921-05-13	JACKSON	MURPHYSBORO TWP
HAGLER	ALICE	BROWN	F/W	UNK	0000259	1940-07-08	JACKSON	CARBONDALE
HAGLER	ALVINA		F/W	UNK	0001877	1918-11-06	BOND	GREENVILLE
HAGLER	ANDY		M/W	Y-74	0000397	1941-12-04	JACKSON	CARBONDALE TWP
HAGLER	ANNA	B	F/W	UNK	0035291	1944-09-01	JACKSON	MURPHYSBORO
HAGLER	ARLINE	C	N/S	UNK	0000040	1937-04-09	ALEXANDER	
HAGLER	ARTHUR		M/W	Y-69	0020763	1949-05-18	MADISON	

Missouri

- <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/birthdeath/>
- Missouri Birth and Death Database Pre 1911
- Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1955

FileEditViewFavoritesToolsHelp

Address

http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/birthdeath/

GoLinks

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MISSOURI SECRETARY OF STATE

ROBIN CARNAHAN

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SOS Home :: Records Services :: Missouri State Archives :: Birth & Death Records Database

MISSOURI BIRTH & DEATH RECORDS DATABASE, PRE-1910

• Search Missouri Birth and Death Database, pre-1910

• Search Missouri Death Certificate Database, 1910-1955

• Go to the Listing of Available Birth and Death Records Search

The Missouri Birth and Death Records Database is an abstract of the birth, stillbirth, and death records recorded before 1909 and the records are available on microfilm at the Missouri State Archives. (See Brief History of Vital Records in Missouri)

The Bureau of Vital Records has certificates of Missouri births from 1910 to the present. The Bureau also maintains certificates of Missouri deaths that are less than fifty years old. House Bill 1634 (2004) transferred all death records over fifty years old to the Missouri State Archives (Search Missouri Death Certificate Database)

http://www.sos.mo.gov/Internet

Village

Primary Re

or

City.....St. Louis..... (No.....City

Frank Smith

²FULL NAME.....

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX

4 COLOR OR RACE

5 SINGLE

MARRIED

WIDOWED

OR DIVORCED

(Write the word)

Male

White

Singl

6 DATE OF BIRTH

Unknown

Unknown 87

(Month)

(Day)

7 AGE

43

Unknown

.....yrs..... mos..... ds.

11 LE

1 day

or.....

Questions?



Library of Michigan

(517) 373-1300

librarian@michigan.gov

<http://michigan.gov/hal>